



**WEBSTER'S**  
**Ninth New**  
**Collegiate**  
**Dictionary**

# Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary

*A Merriam-Webster®*

MERRIAM-WEBSTER INC., *Publishers*  
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



### A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

The name *Webster* alone is no guarantee of excellence. It is used by a number of publishers and may serve mainly to mislead an unwary buyer.

A *Merriam-Webster*® is the registered trademark you should look for when you consider the purchase of dictionaries or other fine reference books. It carries the reputation of a company that has been publishing since 1831 and is your assurance of quality and authority.

Copyright © 1988 by Merriam-Webster Inc.

Philippines Copyright 1988 by Merriam-Webster Inc.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data  
Main Entry under title:

Webster's ninth new collegiate dictionary.

Based on Webster's third new international dictionary.

Includes index.

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Merriam-Webster Inc.

PE1628.W5638 1983 423 83-19499

ISBN 0-87779-511-8 (Private Library Edition)

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary principal copyright 1983

COLLEGIATE trademark Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

All rights reserved. No part of this book covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without written permission of the publisher.

Made in the United States of America

4RRD88

**el-e-vat-ed** \-vāt-əd/ *adj* (1553) 1 a: raised esp. above the ground or other surface (an ~ highway) b: increased esp. abnormally (as in degree or amount) (~ blood pressure) 2 a: morally or intellectually on a high plane (an ~ mind) b: FORMAL, DIGNIFIED (~ diction) 3: exhilarated in mood or feeling

**elevated railroad** *n* (1868): an urban or interurban railroad operating chiefly on an elevated structure — called also *elevated railway*

**e-le-vat-ion** \el-ə-ˈvā-shən/ *n* (14c) 1: the height to which something is elevated: as a: the angular distance of a celestial object above the horizon b: the degree to which a gun is aimed above the horizon c: the height above the level of the sea: ALTITUDE 2: a ballet dancer's or a skater's leap and seeming suspension in the air; also: the ability to achieve an elevation 3: an act or instance of elevating 4: something that is elevated: as a: an elevated place b: a swelling esp. on the skin 5: the quality or state of being elevated 6: a geometrical projection (as of a building) on a vertical plane *syn* see HEIGHT

**e-le-vator** \el-ə-ˈvāt-ər/ *n* (15c) 1: one that raises or lifts something up: as a: an endless belt or chain conveyor with cleats, scoops, or buckets for raising material b: a cage or platform and its hoisting machinery for conveying something to different levels c: a building for elevating, storing, discharging, and sometimes processing grain 2: a movable auxiliary airfoil usu. attached to the tail plane of an airplane for producing motion up or down — see AIRPLANE illustration

**e-le-van** \i-lev-ən/ *n* [ME *enleven*, fr. *enleven*, *adj.*, fr. OE *endleofan*, fr. *end-* (akin to OE *ān* one) + *-leofan*; perh. akin to OE *lēon* to lend — more at ONE, LOAN] (bef. 12c) 1 — see NUMBER table 2: the 11th in a set or series 3: something having 11 units or members; esp: a football team — *eleven* *adj* or *pron* — *eleven-th* \-ən(t)h/ *adj* or *n*

**eleven-plus** \i-lev-ən-ˈplʌs/ *n*, *Brit* (1937): an examination taken between the ages of 11 and 12 that determines the type of secondary education to which a student is assigned

**e-le-vens-es** \-ən-zəz/ *n* *pl* but sometimes *sing* in *constr* [irreg. pl. of *eleven* (o'clock)] *Brit* (ca. 1819): light refreshment (as a snack) taken in the middle of the morning

**eleventh hour** *n* (1826): the latest possible time (won his reprieve at the eleventh hour)

**e-le-von** \el-ə-ˈvɒn/ *n* [elevator + aileron] (1944): an airplane control surface that combines the functions of elevator and aileron

**elf** \elf/ *n*, *pl* *elves* \elvz/ [ME, fr. OE *ælf*; akin to ON *alfr* elf & prob. to L *albus* white — more at ALB] (bef. 12c) 1: a small often mischievous fairy 2 a: a small lively creature; esp: a mischievous child b: a usu. lively mischievous or malicious person — *elf-ish* \el-fish/ *adj* — *elf-ish-ly* *adv*

**elf-in** \el-fən/ *adj* [irreg. fr. *elf*] (1596) 1 a: of, relating to, or produced by an elf b: resembling an elf 2: having an otherworldly or magical quality or charm

**elf-lock** \el-fläk/ *n* (1592): hair matted as if by elves — usu. used in pl.

**el-hi** \el-ˈhi/ *adj* [elementary (school) + high (school)] (1948): of, relating to, or designed for use in grades 1 to 12

**Eli** \ē-lī/ *n* [Heb *Ēlī*]: a judge and priest of Israel who according to the account in I Samuel was entrusted with the care of the boy Samuel

**Eli-as** \i-ˈli-əs/ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *Ēlias*, fr. Heb *Ēliyāh*]: ELIAH

**elic-it** \i-ˈlis-ət/ *vt* [L *elicitus*, pp. of *elicere*, fr. *e-* + *lacere* to allure — more at DELIGHT] (1605) 1 a: to draw forth or bring out (something latent or potential) b: to derive (as a truth) by logical processes 2: to call forth or draw out (a response or reaction) *syn* see EDUCE

**el-ic-i-ta-tion** \i-ˈlis-ə-ˈtā-shən/ *n* — *el-ic-i-tor* \i-ˈlis-ət-ər/ *n*

**elide** \i-ˈlīd/ *vt* *elid-ed*; *elid-ing* [L *elidere* to strike out, fr. *e-* + *laedere* to injure by striking] (1796) 1 a: to suppress or alter (as a vowel or syllable) by elision b: to strike out (as a written word or passage) 2 a: to leave out of consideration: OMIT b: CURTAIL, ABRIDGE

**el-i-gi-ble** \el-ə-ˈjə-bəl/ *adj* [ME, fr. MF & LL; MF, fr. LL *eligibilis*, fr. L *eligere* to choose — more at ELECT] (15c) 1 a: qualified to be chosen: ENTITLED (~ for sophomore standing) (~ to retire) b: permitted under football rules to catch a forward pass (an ~ receiver) 2: worthy of being chosen: DESIRABLE (an ~ young bachelor) — *el-i-gi-bil-ity* \el-ə-ˈjə-bil-ə-tē/ *n* — *el-i-gi-bly* \el-ə-ˈjə-blē/ *adv*

**Eli-jah** \i-ˈli-jə/ *n* [Heb *Ēliyāh*]: a Hebrew prophet of the 9th century B.C. who according to the account in I Kings championed the worship of Jehovah as against Baal

**elim-i-nate** \i-ˈlim-ə-ˈnāt/ *vt* *-nat-ed*; *-nat-ing* [L *eliminatus*, pp. of *eliminare*, fr. *e-* + *limin-*, *limen* threshold — more at LIMB] (1568) 1 a: to cast out or get rid of: REMOVE, ERADICATE (the need to ~ poverty) b: to set aside as unimportant: IGNORE 2: to expel (as waste) from the living body 3: to cause to disappear by combining two or more equations — *elim-i-na-tion* \i-ˈlim-ə-ˈnā-shən/ *n* — *elim-i-na-tive* \i-ˈlim-ə-ˈnāt-iv/ *adj* — *elim-i-na-tor* \i-ˈnāt-ər/ *n*

**Eli-sha** \i-ˈli-shə/ *n* [Heb *Ēlishā*]: a Hebrew prophet and disciple and successor of Elijah

**eli-sion** \i-ˈlizh-ən/ *n* [LL *elision-*, *elisis*, fr. L *elisis*, pp. of *elidere*] (1581) 1 a: the use of a speech form that lacks a final or initial sound which a variant speech form has (the use of 's instead of 'is in *there's* is an example of ~) b: the omission of an unstressed vowel or syllable in a verse to achieve a uniform metrical pattern. 2: the act or an instance of omitting something: OMISSION

**elite** \ā-ˈlīt, i-ˈl/ *n* [F *élite*, fr. OF *eslite*, fr. fem. of *eslir*, pp. of *eslire* to choose, fr. L *eligere*] (1823) 1 a: the choice part or segment; esp: a socially superior group b: a powerful minority group (a power ~ inside the government) 2: a typewriter type providing 12 characters to the linear inch — *elite* *adj*

**elit-ism** \-līt-, i-z-əm/ *n* (1947) 1 a: leadership or rule by an elite b: belief in or advocacy of such elitism 2: consciousness of being or belonging to an elite — *elit-ist* \-līt-ist/ *n* or *adj*

**elix-ir** \i-ˈlik-sər/ *n* [ME, fr. ML, fr. Ar *al-iksir* the elixir, fr. *al* the + *iksir* elixir, prob. fr. Gk *xērion* desiccative powder, fr. *xēros* dry — more at SERENE] (14c) 1 a: a substance held capable of changing base metals into gold: PHILOSOPHERS' STONE b (1): a substance held capable of prolonging life indefinitely (2): CURE-ALL (3): a sweetened liquid usu. containing alcohol that is used as a vehicle for medicinal agents 2: the essential principle

**Eliz-a-be-than** \i-ˈliz-ə-ˈbē-than/ *adj* (1817): of, relating to, or characteristic of Elizabeth I of England or her age — *Elizabethan* *n*

**elk** \elk/ *n*, *pl* *elks* [ME, prob. fr. OE *eolh*; akin to OHG *elaho* elk, Gk *elaphos* deer] (bef. 12c) 1 *pl* *usu* *elk* a: the largest existing deer (*Alces alces*) of Europe and Asia resembling but not so large as the moose of No. America b: a No. American deer (*Cervus canadensis*) similar to the red deer of Europe and related forms — called also *wapiti* c: any of various large Asian deer 2: soft tanned rugged leather 3 *cap* [Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks]: a member of a major benevolent and fraternal order

**elk-hound** \elk-ˈhaund, -el-ˈkaund/ *n* (1835): NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND

**ell** \el/ *n* [ME *eln*, fr. OE; akin to OHG *elina* ell, L *ulna* elbow, arm, Gk *elenē* elbow, Skt *āni* linchpin, thigh] (bef. 12c) 1: a former English unit of length (as for cloth) equal to 45 inches 2: any of various units of length similar in use to the English ell

**ell** *n* [alter. of *el*] (1773) 1: an extension at right angles to the length of a building 2: an elbow in a pipe or conduit

**el-lag-ic acid** \-ˈlaj-ik-, e-ˈ/ *n* [F *ellagique*, fr. *ellag*, anagram of *galle* gall] (1810): a crystalline phenolic compound  $C_{14}H_6O_8$  with two lactone groupings that is obtained esp. from oak galls and some tannins and is used medicinally as a hemostatic

**el-lipse** \i-ˈlips-, e-ˈ/ *n* [Gk *elleipsis*] (1753) 1 a: OVAL b: a closed plane curve generated by a point moving in such a way that the sums of its distances from two fixed points is a constant: a plane section of a right circular cone that is a closed curve 2: ELLIPSIS

**el-lip-sis** \i-ˈlip-səs-, e-ˈ/ *n*, *pl* *el-lip-ses* \-sēz/ [L, fr. Gk *elleipsis* ellipsis, ellipse, fr. *elipein* to leave out, fall short, fr. *en* in + *leipein* to leave — more at IN, LOAN] (1540) 1 a: the omission of one or more words that are obviously understood but that must be supplied to make a construction grammatically complete ("the man that he sees" may be changed by ~ to "the man he sees") b: a leap or sudden passage without logical connectives from one topic to another 2: marks or a mark (as ... or \*\*\* or —) indicating an omission (as of words) or a pause

**el-lip-soid** \i-ˈlip-soid-, e-ˈ/ *n* (1721): a surface all plane sections of which are ellipses or circles — **ellipsoid** or **el-lip-soi-dal** \i-ˈlip-soid-əl, (-)el-ˈsoi-dal/ *adj*

**el-lip-tic** \i-ˈlip-tik-, e-ˈ/ or **el-lip-ti-cal** \-ti-kəl/ *adj* [Gk *elleiptikos* defective, marked by ellipsis, fr. *elleipein*] (1656) 1: of, relating to, or shaped like an ellipse 2 a: of, relating to, or marked by ellipsis or an ellipsis b (1): of, relating to, or marked by extreme economy of speech or writing (2): of or relating to deliberate obscurity (as of literary or conversational style) — **el-lip-ti-cally** \-ti-k(ə)-lē/ *adv*

**el-lip-ti-ci-ty** \i-ˈlip-tis-ə-tē-, (-)el-ˈ/ *n* (1753): deviation of an ellipse or a spheroid from the form of a circle or a sphere

**elm** \elm/ *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *elme* elm, L *ulmus*] (bef. 12c) 1: any of a genus (*Ulmus* of the family Ulmaceae, the elm family) comprising large graceful trees with alternate stipulate leaves and small apetalous flowers 2: the wood of an elm

**elm bark beetle** *n* (1909): either of two beetles that are vectors for the fungus causing Dutch elm disease: a: a beetle (*Hylurgopinus rufipes*) native to eastern No. America b: a European beetle (*Scolytus multistriatus*) that is established in eastern No. America

**elm leaf beetle** *n* (1881): a small orange-yellow black-striped Old World chrysomelid beetle (*Pyrhalta luteola*) that is a leaf-eating pest of elms in eastern No. America as a larva and as an adult

**el-o-cu-tion** \el-ə-ˈkyū-shən/ *n* [ME *elocucioun*, fr. L *elocution-*, *elocutio*, fr. *elocutus*, pp. of *eloqui*] (15c) 1: the art of effective public speaking 2: a style of speaking esp. in public — **el-o-cu-tion-ary** \-shə-ˈner-ē/ *adj* — **el-o-cu-tion-ist** \-sh(ə)-ˈnəst/ *n*

**elo-dea** \i-ˈlōd-ē-ə/ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *helōdēs* marshy, fr. *helos* marsh; akin to Skt *saras* pond] (ca. 1868): any of a small American genus (*Elodea*) of submerged aquatic monocotyledonous herbs

**eloign** \i-ˈlōin/ *vt* [ME *eloyner*, fr. MF *esloigner*, fr. OF, fr. *es-* ex- (fr. L *ex-*) + *loing* (adv.) far, fr. L *longe*, fr. *longus* long] (1500) 1 *archaic*: to take (oneself) far away 2 *archaic*: to remove to a distant or unknown place: CONCEAL

**elon-gate** \i-ˈlɒŋ-ˈgāt/ *vb* *-gat-ed*; *-gat-ing* [LL *elongatus*, pp. of *elongare*, to withdraw, fr. L *e-* + *longus*] *vt* (1578): to extend the length of ~ *vi*: to grow in length

**el-on-gate** or **elon-gat-ed** *adj* (1828) 1: stretched out: LENGTHENED 2: long in proportion to width: SLENDER

**elon-ga-tion** \i-ˈlɒŋ-ˈgā-shən/ *n* (14c) 1 a: the angular distance of a celestial body from another around which it revolves or from a particular point in the sky b: the daily extreme east or west position of a star with reference to the north celestial pole 2 a: the state of being elongated or lengthened; also: the process of growing or increasing in length b: something that is elongated

**elope** \i-ˈlɒp/ *vi* *eloped*; *elop-ing* [AF *aloper*] (1628) 1 a: to run away from one's husband with a lover b: to run away secretly with the intention of getting married usu. without parental consent 2: to slip away: ESCAPE — **elope-ment** \-lɒp-mənt/ *n* — **elop-er** *n*

**elo-quence** \el-ə-ˈkwən(t)s/ *n* (14c) 1: discourse marked by force and persuasiveness; also: the art or power of using such discourse 2: the quality of forceful or persuasive expressiveness

**elo-quent** \-kwənt/ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *eloquent-*, *eloquens*, fr. prp. of *eloqui* to speak out, fr. *e-* + *loqui* to speak] (14c) 1: marked by forceful and fluent expression (an ~ preacher) 2: vividly or movingly expressive or revealing (put his arm around her in an ~ gesture of reassurance) — **elo-quent-ly** *adv*

**else** \el(t)s/ *adv* [ME *elles*, fr. OE; akin to L *alius* other, *alter* other of two, Gk *allos* other] (bef. 12c) 1 a: in a different manner or place or at a different time (how ~ could he have acted) (here and nowhere ~) b: in an additional manner or place or at an additional time (where ~ is gold found) 2: if the facts are or were different: if not: OTHERWISE (do what you are told or ~ you'll be sorry) — used absolutely to express a threat (do what I tell you or ~)

**else-where** \el(t)s/ *adv* [ME *elles*, fr. OE; akin to L *alius* other, *alter* other of two, Gk *allos* other] (bef. 12c) 1 a: in a different manner or place or at a different time (how ~ could he have acted) (here and nowhere ~) b: in an additional manner or place or at an additional time (where ~ is gold found) 2: if the facts are or were different: if not: OTHERWISE (do what you are told or ~ you'll be sorry) — used absolutely to express a threat (do what I tell you or ~)

**else-where** \el(t)s/ *adv* [ME *elles*, fr. OE; akin to L *alius* other, *alter* other of two, Gk *allos* other] (bef. 12c) 1 a: in a different manner or place or at a different time (how ~ could he have acted) (here and nowhere ~) b: in an additional manner or place or at an additional time (where ~ is gold found) 2: if the facts are or were different: if not: OTHERWISE (do what you are told or ~ you'll be sorry) — used absolutely to express a threat (do what I tell you or ~)

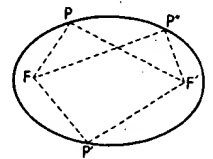
**else-where** \el(t)s/ *adv* [ME *elles*, fr. OE; akin to L *alius* other, *alter* other of two, Gk *allos* other] (bef. 12c) 1 a: in a different manner or place or at a different time (how ~ could he have acted) (here and nowhere ~) b: in an additional manner or place or at an additional time (where ~ is gold found) 2: if the facts are or were different: if not: OTHERWISE (do what you are told or ~ you'll be sorry) — used absolutely to express a threat (do what I tell you or ~)

**else-where** \el(t)s/ *adv* [ME *elles*, fr. OE; akin to L *alius* other, *alter* other of two, Gk *allos* other] (bef. 12c) 1 a: in a different manner or place or at a different time (how ~ could he have acted) (here and nowhere ~) b: in an additional manner or place or at an additional time (where ~ is gold found) 2: if the facts are or were different: if not: OTHERWISE (do what you are told or ~ you'll be sorry) — used absolutely to express a threat (do what I tell you or ~)

**else-where** \el(t)s/ *adv* [ME *elles*, fr. OE; akin to L *alius* other, *alter* other of two, Gk *allos* other] (bef. 12c) 1 a: in a different manner or place or at a different time (how ~ could he have acted) (here and nowhere ~) b: in an additional manner or place or at an additional time (where ~ is gold found) 2: if the facts are or were different: if not: OTHERWISE (do what you are told or ~ you'll be sorry) — used absolutely to express a threat (do what I tell you or ~)

**else-where** \el(t)s/ *adv* [ME *elles*, fr. OE; akin to L *alius* other, *alter* other of two, Gk *allos* other] (bef. 12c) 1 a: in a different manner or place or at a different time (how ~ could he have acted) (here and nowhere ~) b: in an additional manner or place or at an additional time (where ~ is gold found) 2: if the facts are or were different: if not: OTHERWISE (do what you are told or ~ you'll be sorry) — used absolutely to express a threat (do what I tell you or ~)

**else-where** \el(t)s/ *adv* [ME *elles*, fr. OE; akin to L *alius* other, *alter* other of two, Gk *allos* other] (bef. 12c) 1 a: in a different manner or place or at a different time (how ~ could he have acted) (here and nowhere ~) b: in an additional manner or place or at an additional time (where ~ is gold found) 2: if the facts are or were different: if not: OTHERWISE (do what you are told or ~ you'll be sorry) — used absolutely to express a threat (do what I tell you or ~)



ellipse 1b: F, F' foci; P, P', P' any point on the curve;  $FP + PF' = FP' + P'F = FP + P'F$